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septum, or a supersensitive area of the nasal mucous membrane are at the root of the trouble, and relief usually follows their correction by the proper surgical procedure.

In conclusion, to indulge in an Hibernianism, the best way to cure a cold is not to "catch" one; but if we do catch a cold, we should remember that the affection is far from being trivial.

ENTERTAINING HOSPITAL PATIENTS BY MOTION PICTURES

BY ERNEST A. DENCH

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It must be a trying ordeal for active folks to be bedridden, and consequently shut off from the outside world. No patient feels in a fit condition to undertake the necessary mental work involved in reading; he wants this done for him, and the motion picture ably performs this service. By the photoplay he can be taken through the realms of romance and forget his pains and troubles for the time being.

The Ohio State Hospital at Massillon runs photoplay entertainments in the sick rooms for the patients, and other hospitals are gradually falling into line. These hints may prove of value to the hospital about to inaugurate such plays. The first item of importance is the projection machine, the cost of which ranges from \$250 to \$300. The authorities in various parts of the country insist upon the projection machine being enclosed in a fireproof booth, for if there is an outbreak of fire it cannot possibly spread further. Here an expense of \$65 is involved. This booth, made of galvanized iron, gives the operator plenty of room in which to work, and being shipped in parts, the whole is easily set up with nuts and bolts.

Carbons are necessary to run the projector. These cost from \$17 to \$44, although prices vary according to market conditions.

The next important link is the screen. Formerly a tablecloth or bed sheet was used, but science has now brought out many different screens, the best costing about one dollar and a half a foot.

Without music, motion pictures are divested of much of their charm, and while an orchestra of several pieces is best, one can get along satisfactorily with a piano.

If there is a man on the staff of employees who is well versed in electricity, he could easily become an expert operator. If he is the

right sort of man he will not object to doing two or three hours overtime of an evening, or perhaps his hours at regular work can be curtailed.

There remains one last item, the light by which to throw the pictures on the screen. If the hospital has a power plant, the current from that can be used. Have the operator focus the projection machine exactly in the middle of the screen, not an inch to the right or left, or an inch above or below. If this is not attended to, no matter in what advantageous position a spectator sits, he will either have to hold his head up high or the players in the picture appear unnaturally long and slim. The rays of light take a straight path, and if they are compelled to turn aside, a peculiar, annoying effect is produced.

In selecting a suitable lens, the size of the room, the make of the projection machine, the length and height of the screen and the distance from the operating booth to the screen must be taken into consideration. It is false economy to purchase a cheap lens.

The standard speed at which pictures are projected is sixteen "frames" to the second. There are sixteen of these "frames," otherwise tiny pictures, to each foot of film, and a reel takes about eighteen minutes to unspool. If the projection is faster, things in the film move at a rapid, mechanical pace, while explanatory matter is snatched off before it can be grasped.

The operator will have to be provided with a tool outfit, which should include cement for mending broken films, a file for sharpening carbons, lugs, reels and machine oil.

The three chief distributing organizations, General, Mutual and Universal, operate a chain of exchanges throughout the country and between them release about one hundred productions weekly. The producers marketing their wares under these factions receive ten cents per foot for each print they supply, consequently every reel costs the exchange \$100. It would be out of the question to show a film a single day on these terms, so it is hired out to the theaters booking them. The man who secures first-run service pays the highest price, but even then it only amounts to a part of the original price. As the age of a film increases, the rental decreases, until it can be hired for as low as one dollar per day. Even at this stage it is generally in good condition. The service has to be contracted for in advance, the films being shipped as required and re-shipped to the next theatre on the list at the expiration of the hiring term. It has been proven by experience that hospital patients appreciate comedy more than drama.